

15 February 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reactions to the NID by Bill Maynes of State


1. On 13 February I talked about the NID with Bill Maynes, Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations. Bill said that he is briefed daily by INR and his INR man brings a copy of the NID with him. Bill reads it at that time as part of his daily morning intelligence briefing. He says the INR man does mark special pieces for him based on Bill's special interests. For instance, Bill reads everything on South Africa and on Namibia. Bill says he likes the newspaper format and prefers four pages to two as he is provided with a wider selection of articles. He says he finds the longer pieces useful, especially those concerning Soviet strategic weapons, analyses of Soviet position on SALT. He says he likes the NID challenges to the prevailing wisdom at State. He is provided with alternate interpretations on important issues.

2. He finds the NID a little weak on economics (Bill himself is an economist). He says, for instance, that he doesn't feel the NID deals adequately with the profound aspects of US-Japanese trade nor does it with banking over-extensions in the LDCs. He says that the NID should emphasize unique intelligence inputs and should not emulate State summaries. He cited the Japan-Australian fishery negotiations as an example of unnecessary coverage.

3. Finally, he said our headlines and leads could be improved and cited several examples. He said he also preferred that we adopt more of a "newspaper style" in our articles. He said he preferred that hard concise summary

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info be put into the first paragraph and then we should prioritize the info in descending order in the succeeding paragraphs. In summary, Bill said the NID kept him informed on major issues, enabled him to be current on fast-breaking events and provided him an alternate viewpoint to State's position.


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